

To us it seems that the desirability of this change is very questionable. To make up for this, Dr. Günther reunites his *Pristipomatidæ* with the *Serranidæ*.

Before taking leave of this book we must say a few words as to the illustrations. Mr. Ford's power of representing fishes is so well known that it is almost a work of supererogation to say that these figures of South-Sea fishes are beautifully drawn; and, in fact, the structural details are represented with a delicacy and accuracy which leave nothing to be desired. But in most cases the plates are worked in colours; and these have generally been most admirably managed, the brilliant and delicate tints of the beautiful Basses and Apogons coming out wonderfully, and rendering the mere contemplation of the plates a real gratification. We look forward with pleasure to the continuation and completion of this most valuable work, which will form a worthy monument at once to the talents and industry of the author and artist and to the liberality of the founder and supporter of the Museum Godeffroy.

*The Recent and Fossil Foraminifera of Belgium.* By MM. H. J. MILLER and E. VANDEN BROECK. (*Les Foraminifères, &c.*) 8vo. pp. 34 and Tables. Brussels, 1873.

This memoir, reprinted from the 'Annals' of the Malacological Society of Belgium, is the first part of an intended monograph of the Foraminifera of Belgium. It consists partly of an Introduction, treating of the gradual progress made by naturalists in the study of these Rhizopods, and more particularly of what is known of the presence of fossil Foraminifera in the several Belgian formations from the Lias to the Pliocene inclusive. Thus, in the Lias (Lower) there are 11 species known; in the Aachenian stage of the Cretaceous system, 0; in the Hervian, 11; Nervian, 1; Senonian, 92; Maestrichtian, 76. In the Tertiary Montian and Heersian, 0; Landenian, 6; Ypresian, 11; Paniselian, 1; Bruxellian, 3; Lækenian, 9; Tongrian, 1; Rupelian, 4; Bolderian, 0; Diestian, 70; and in the Scaldisian, 8.

Part I., on the existing Foraminifera of Belgium, follows, commencing with a list of littoral species collected at Sluys-Kill, Ostend, and Nieuport. The first-named place is a little beyond the frontier, on a shallow sea-creek full of animal and vegetable life, and swarming with Foraminifera, the different groups of which at different depths and localities can be reached by wading, and collected separately. Our authors have detected many fossil specimens, derived from neighbouring Diestian and Scaldisian strata, among the recent fauna; and they have given a list of them (p. 27), in which they have had the aid of Messrs. Jones and Parker. Sluys-Kill typifies the muddy littoral zone; whilst the sandy zone is to be studied at Nieuport, Ostend, Blankenberg, Heyst, and along the coast generally. On the sand zone strong shells of *Polystomella crispa*, *Rotalia Beccarii*, *Triloculina oblonga*, *Quinqueloculina bicornis*, &c. are common; whilst the delicate *Lagena levis*, *L. sulcata*, *Poly-*

*morphina oblonga*, *Polystomella striato-punctata*, and *Nonionina depressula* abound on the mud zone of Sluys-Kill. A large synoptical table is appended, showing the localities and relative abundance or rarity of the 86 recent species MM. Miller and Vanden Broeck have collected. They treat of the difficulty of determining specific types among this low class of creatures (pp. 31 &c.), and explain that they give preference to the plan of nomenclature established by the English rhizopodists, Williamson, Carpenter, Parker, and Jones.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### MR. ALBANY HANCOCK.

ALBANY HANCOCK died, after a long illness, on the 24th of October. He was born at Newcastle-on-Tyne in 1806, and was one of a band of naturalists gradually passing from our midst, who have made this district famous in scientific circles, especially for British zoology. He was one of the founders of the Natural-History Society of that town, and also of the Tyneside Natural-History Field-Club, and a constant contributor to their 'Transactions,' and for many years an active member of the Committee of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle, in which he has always taken a lively interest.

The number of this band of naturalists has gradually dwindled by the loss of Adamson, Hutton, Alder, Fryer, and others; but we have with us Hewitson, John Hancock, Embleton, King, Norman, Howse, and others, who are still working in their vocation.

Mr. Albany Hancock, in conjunction with his brother John, mainly by their efforts in the local committee, greatly contributed to gathering together the splendid collection of art and science that was exhibited in the Central Exchange during the meeting of the British Association in 1863.

Mr. Hancock's contributions were not confined to the 'Transactions' of his district, but many valuable papers emanating from his pen are in the 'Transactions' of the Royal, and the 'Transactions' and 'Journals' of the Linnean, the Zoological, and the Geological Societies, and in the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History.' He was a most accurate anatomical examiner and describer; and his great abilities as a draughtsman enabled him to accompany his papers with beautiful plates. His most celebrated work, prepared and written in conjunction with his friend Joshua Alder, and published by the Ray Society, is that on the British Nudibranchiate Mollusca, which was completed in 1855. It will be in the recollection of our readers that Mr. Alder died in 1867, and that he had been engaged in conjunction with Mr. Albany Hancock in the preparation of a work on the British Tunicata, to be published by the Ray Society. Subsequently to his colleague's death Mr. Hancock